



# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## EXPLORING MOUNTAINS UNDER THE SEA

### *Delving Into the Secrets of the Atlantic Ocean*

A SCIENTIFIC expedition in the research ship Atlantis is exploring the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the underwater mountain range which stretches in an "S" shape from Iceland nearly to the Antarctic.

Led by the famous American geologist and oceanographer Dr Maurice Ewing, and jointly sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Columbia University, this expedition has an ambitious three-fold programme; it is to photograph marine life in colour, to make a thorough geological survey of the floor of the Atlantic, and to chart the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

It is anticipated that great difficulties will be experienced in photographing marine life at great depths, for hitherto all colour photographs of marine life have been taken at relatively shallow depths. Now, using specially-adapted apparatus, Dr Ewing hopes to photograph marine life two miles down in colour, and still deeper in black and white. The special camera will be enclosed in a water-tight metal case, light being provided by powerful flash-lamps.

#### Blind Photography

One of the chief technical difficulties will be the fact that all the photographs must be done "blind." The photographer, sitting aboard the research ship some two miles above his camera, will not know whether there is anything in front of the lens when he operates the shutter mechanism. However, to guard against too many blank pictures, special baits will be used to lure fish and other creatures into camera range.

Particularly vital will be the sedimentation tests, carried out to discover unknown phases of the world's geological history. These tests will be made by sinking a special tube into the sediment which lines the floor of the ocean, letting it pierce the depths by its own weight on a free fall. When hauled back into the Atlantis the sediment will

be carefully extracted for scientific examination. Concerning these tests, the National Geographic Society states: ".... Dr Ewing aims to get 60-foot cores of sediment for study—an achievement which would provide him with a geological cross-section of some 1,440,000 years of the Earth's history."

#### Deep-Sea Life

Marine biologists will carry out extensive trawling of the sea-bed to trap specimens of the life existing at great depths. They will be using modern equipment and new techniques, and they anticipate a rich haul. Similarly, there will be deep-sea dredging to obtain rocks and other material—apart from the sediment—for scientific study in oceanographic laboratories.

As for the map-making, it will take years to chart the great mountain range—the Mid-Atlantic Ridge—of which very little is known. With the aid of equipment and methods perfected during the recent war, including special echo-sounding devices, the expedition members hope to make a careful chart of the major part of the range.

It is interesting to note that this range, lying about a mile or so under the level of the Atlantic, rises to "peaks" at places like the Azores, Ascension Island, and elsewhere.

For the first two months of this 1948 expeditionary cruise, operations will take place in the North Atlantic. Later, after a "rest" period, the Atlantis will cruise off the western bulge of the African continent, and finally off the north-east bulge of South America.

### A Strange Sight at Sea

"HARKEE, my lad, have no more o' your plaguery silly dreams. You say you saw one-third of a ship sailing without the rest of the vessel, forsooth! Tis plain you eat too hearty a supper before retiring."

So might an old 18th-century sea-dog have spoken to a son who had related a strange dream. But the fantasy had become a reality, for recently one-third of a ship was towed all the way from Oran in Algeria to Sunderland. This part of a ship was the remains of the oil-tanker Picardie, which was bombed off North Africa in 1940. The wrecked fore-part was cut away in Oran harbour and the stern sealed off so that it would float. A new fore-part is to be built at Sunderland and joined to the old stern in a dry-dock.

## OLYMPIC SIGHTSEERS



The US Olympic cycling team took a holiday the other day and went—cycling. Two obliging London girls pointed out the sights near Big Ben.

## Rich Promise of Cockatoo Island

PROMINENT in the mouth of Yampi Sound, 85 miles north of Derby, along the north-west coast of Australia, is Cockatoo Island—a barren, desolate spot, but destined to play a prominent part in Australia's future. This little piece of rock which, during the war years, housed the crews of Royal Australian Air Force Catalina flying boats on their missions of destruction, will hold one of sunny Australia's greatest industries.

The reason for this is that the 500-foot cliffs which rise almost vertical from the sea hold huge iron-ore deposits. Next year the present owners will ship the first load of ore to Newcastle, Australia's big smelting works 100 miles north of Sydney.

It is a place little known to the rest of the world; indeed, until the Royal Australian Navy surveyed the area this year, mariners were using charts prepared in 1838 by the famous survey ship HMS Beagle.

There are few beaches on this island, but it possesses an unusual charm despite its huge, solid black metallic masses.

From the highest peak—600 feet above sea level—there is a seemingly endless stretch of sea to the north, while in the south the vivid red cliffs of the Australian mainland are seen across the Sound.

As on all other coasts in Australia's north-west, there is a marked tidal difference. A wharf cut from the cliff beside the settlement is the only place where trading vessels can berth—and then only at high tide, because there is a 32-foot drop between the two tides.

Despite their remoteness and isolation, employees on the island enjoy comfortable tropical accommodation. All buildings have double-lined roofs, and electric fans and refrigerators are in all houses, for, owing to the radiation from the ore, temperatures are always high—even in winter.

Wild goats, formerly the only inhabitants of Cockatoo, roam the valley and somehow eke out an existence. The rocks near the sea abound in huge oysters—some shells measuring up to nine inches.

## New Zealand's Mystery Wasps

### UNWANTED VISITORS

MANY New Zealand folk are thinking of forming a Home Guard or ARP squad to meet the invasion of wasps accidentally introduced from Europe, a correspondent in the Dominion says in a note to the C.N. First reported near the city of Hamilton a year ago, they are now stated to have invaded homes in the suburbs of Auckland, 80 miles farther North.

Hitherto New Zealand has had only solitary wasps. How came to the Dominion these European social wasps, which produce yearly thousands of stinging young in the many nests their queens construct.

#### Moths in Mines

New Zealand is 1000 miles from New Caledonia, the nearest island of size. Certainly the wasps did not fly as the lady-birds flew to colonise the reeking crater of Vesuvius, some years ago. They must have been carried, as were the eggs or caterpillars of the noctuid moths which, entering a British coal-mine with fodder for pit ponies, thrived for years in the darkness, the unchanging temperature, and on the abundant food available in the mine.

The wasps may have travelled to New Zealand as queens hibernating in packing or other material, and have laid thousands of eggs on regaining activity in a new land. They join the company of things hated that have reached the Dominion from home, such as rabbits that multiplied disastrously, the sparrows, skylarks, greenfinches, and the ferrets and weasels that, neglecting the rabbits they were imported to kill, themselves became a nuisance.

Just as the imported prickly pear overran millions of acres in Queensland (Australia), so in New Zealand our blackberry bushes became jungles, and the gorse as threatening until we sent out the appropriate weevil to keep it in check. When white men first reached New Zealand they found there scorpions, spiders, centipedes, snails, and earthworms, but no bees, without which clover cannot set its seed.

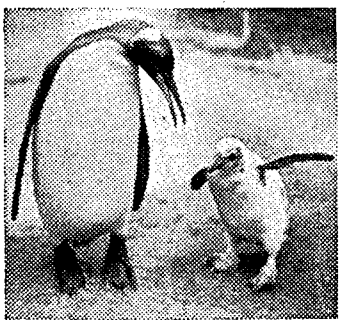
So we sent honey-bees for white clover, and bumble-bees for red clover, and thus furnished unending food for the great herds and flocks for which the country is now famous. We sent every kind of domestic animal, as well as moose and deer; we sent salmon and trout for her rivers and every kind of fruit and food crop for her farms and gardens.

#### Benefits Conferred

All Australasia was stocked in the same way with the animals and vegetation proper to civilisation. The mistakes made by the senders were few compared with the benefits conferred by the vast majority of valuable things imported from home.

The social wasps we did not send; their arrival is a mystery, and it is hoped that New Zealanders will be able to eliminate them lest they become another imported pest.

## THE INTRUDER



Percy, the King Penguin, looks down his nose as the Rockhopper Penguin comes to share his enclosure at the London Zoo.



## Restoring a Great European Lifeline

**B**EFORE the war the Danube was one of Europe's great lifelines, busy with the trade of the many countries through which it flows on its way from Germany to the Black Sea. To return the great river to that happy state, with benefit to all Europe, is the aim of the Danubian Conference in Belgrade.

To make the Danube once more a vital lifeline the Conference hopes to draft an international agreement which would assure freedom of navigation and equal rights for the citizens, vessels, and goods of all States. The countries taking part in the Conference are the Big Four—Britain, USA, Russia, and France—and the riparian States—that is, the states through which the Danube flows. These are Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, the Ukraine, Yugoslavia, and Austria.

### Serves Many Countries

The importance of the Danube lies in the simple fact that it is the second longest river of the European Continent—the Volga being the longest—with a navigable course of 1750 miles passing through eight countries, including Germany. It is the cheapest and most direct means of communication between the agricultural South-East of Europe and the Black Sea countries and industrial Central Europe. Before the war as much as seven million tons of goods were carried by Danube vessels each year. The trouble at present is that commerce is considerably reduced owing to a very stringent Soviet control.

It is not only the riparian States that are very interested in Danubian navigation. Other European countries trading with such landlocked countries of Central Europe as Hungary, Austria, or Czechoslovakia, are also vitally concerned with the freedom of the Danube. One example may show why. Waterborne transport is so much cheaper than shifting goods by rail that it would pay to haul, say, a ton of coal from South Wales all the way through the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and up the Danube to Vienna, rather than send it to a French port and thence by the short railway route to the Austrian capital. That is why, for instance, Britain is very interested in opening up that great European waterway. A free and open Danube could bring prosperity to all Europe.

### Opening Up Trade

When the European Recovery Programme was set up a short while ago the 16 West European nations and the United States thought that a new start should be given to the trade between West and East by using the cheap Danubian waterway as a main trade highway between East and West. The countries of South-Eastern Europe are also well aware of the importance of trade with the West. Recently it was revealed that trade agreements already made between individual nations of the East and the West called for about a 50 per cent increase in trade this year over last. The European Recovery plan goes still further, and believes that within the next three years there should be a further 80 per cent rise in that trade. It is clear that railways, poorly developed in that part of the world, will not be able to cope with the

traffic. So, unless Danube traffic can be allowed to pass more freely both parts of Europe are likely to fall behind in carrying out their plans for recovery.

Freedom of navigation itself is not, however, enough. Tremendous improvements must be made first. The Danube must get new ports, warehouses, and numerous other facilities. To build them is, however, beyond the financial strength of any single nation. It requires the good will and co-operation of all the countries interested in Danubian commerce.

The need for calling an international conference has become so urgent that even the great differences existing between East and West could not delay its meeting. The East European countries know that they need machinery from Western Europe. Western Europe needs foodstuffs and raw materials from the countries of Eastern Europe. These facts alone give our Continent the hope that agreement may soon be reached.

### The Right Spirit

**T**HE important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part. The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well.

*Baron de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games*

### "TIM" is 12

**L**ONDON's telephone speaking-clock, known as Tim, because phone users dial TIM to hear it tell the time, celebrated its 12th birthday recently. Perhaps one should say "her" birthday, for it is a girl's voice that tells the time. Her voice has told it to 250 million Londoners since Tim was installed in 1936.

Tim tells the time every ten seconds. By dialling TIM the caller hears a girl's voice saying (for example): "At the third stroke it will be 4.15 and ten seconds," and then three pips.

It is good time in which Tim deals, for she is accurate to one-tenth of a second, and is automatically checked every hour by a time signal from Greenwich.

### A New Nuffield Centre

**T**HROUGH the generosity of Lord Nuffield, a centre for Servicemen and women has been re-established in London. It was opened recently by Lord Nuffield in what used to be a well-known restaurant, Gatti's, at 8 Adelaide Street, near Charing Cross.

Alterations made to the premises have changed them into a modern club with a special appeal to all men and women, members of the Forces below commissioned rank.

In peacetime the public are sometimes apt to forget the needs of men and women of the Forces, but Britain's great benefactor has remembered.

## A PACIFIC JUBILEE

### Hawaii's 50 Years as an American Territory

**I**N romantic Hawaii this week ukuleles will be accompanying songs specially composed to celebrate the jubilee of the union of the islands with the United States. Fifty years ago, on August 12, 1898, the islands formally became American.

The Hawaiian group of islands—there are 20, only nine of which are inhabited—have an area of 6435 miles, less than that of Wales. The group, of great strategic importance to the American north Pacific coast, now forms a territory of the United States, and is represented in Congress by a delegate to the House of Representatives.

We of the British Empire are interested in the Jubilee, for our immortal Captain Cook discovered the islands in 1778. The islands enchanted him by their beauty, their fertility, and by their mystic terrors, and he admired also the handsome, indolent natives. It was they, however, who, when he revisited them in the following year, turned on him in sudden frenzy and killed him.

### A Forgotten Name

Cook named the group the Sandwich Islands, after his First Lord of the Admiralty. But it is Hawaii today, and although the islands have adopted the national flag of the nation to which they are annexed, they still display the Union Jack in the upper right corner of their own flag.

During the early 19th century American missionaries began the task of redeeming the islanders from their picturesque barbarism by teaching them to read and write, and the women and girls to sew. But the century witnessed grave trials for the natives who, attacked by illnesses imported from the Old World, declined sadly in numbers, while foreigners, notably Japanese, increased rapidly. Moreover, there was trouble arising from misgovernment by the Hawaiian royal rulers, the last of whom, Queen Liliuokalani, raising money by discreditable means and bringing the country to revolution, was compelled to abdicate.

### Invasion Peril

It became necessary for the United States to annex the islands so that widespread bloodshed might be avoided and the archipelago saved from the peril of invasion from across the Pacific. That such forebodings were not baseless was proved in December 1941 when Japan without declaring war attacked the American fleet as it lay in Hawaii's Pearl Harbour.

Hawaii thrives on her association with America, but her life, passed amid almost matchless charm of scene and circumstance, is overshadowed by the existence in the islands of many volcanoes. Among these rises Kilauea, whose lava lake, eight miles in circumference, is perpetually in action, and the volcano Haleakala, whose crater, 19 miles in circumference, is the greatest in the world. The volcanoes inspire Hawaiian native folk lore and literature with grim legends, some not wholly unlike Greek fables of the subterranean world. But such terrors will be forgotten during this week of jubilee celebrations.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**MERCY PLANE.** A Catalina carried food to a Greek ship disabled some 600 miles off Fremantle, Western Australia.

*The Swedish Air Force has bought 70 Spitfires.*

In October a free university accommodating nearly 1500 students will be opened in the US sector of Berlin.

*The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in London in October is expected to be the biggest of its kind ever held. It will be attended by representatives of the Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth.*

**BIG MOVE.** An aircraft factory in the US is to travel 1687 miles from Stratford, Connecticut, to a new site at Dallas, Texas. About £60,000,000 worth of machinery will be moved together with 1500 workers and their families.

*The South Australian wheat harvest amounts to 32,265,050 bushels, grown on 2,368,171 acres. The barley harvest was 15,283,345 bushels—a record.*

**FOR THE CHILDREN.** The UN Children's Emergency Fund plans to spend 78 million dollars in 1949.

*The recent general election in the Canadian province of Quebec has returned to the Legislature 92 members of the Union Nationale party, eight Liberals, and two independents.*

The first session of the World Health Assembly meeting at Geneva approved a budget for 1949 amounting to five million dollars. It was also decided that its HQ should be at Geneva.

*A French air-freighter recently flew to England with five tons of Camembert cheese and returned with two British tourists and their car.*

**WINDFALL.** William Nelson Cromwell, who passed on recently in New York, left nearly all his fortune of about £3,750,000 to various institutions. One of the beneficiaries was the British War Relief Society, an American organisation.

*At a reception given at the Chinese Embassy in London, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, himself blind, said there are about two million blind people in China today. With Dr W. S. Flowers, he has prepared a report for the Chinese Government which states that most of the blindness among young people is caused by five preventable diseases.*

## HOME NEWS REEL

**THE RIGHT WAY.** The AA and RAC set up 5000 road signs to show Olympic visitors the way to Wembley.

*Britain exported 1,035,105 tons of coal in June—the highest monthly total since the war.*

A Chinese at Shrewsbury signed his application for a National Insurance card in Chinese. His name is Ying Fat Chong.

*John Hinchcliffe of Ossett, Yorks, has worked in the mines for 64 years—the last 50 without a break in the Old Roundwood Pit.*

**STILL WATERS.** A four-masted sailing ship, the Viking, which had come from Australia, was becalmed not long ago ten miles off the Lizard.

*The Eire Prime Minister recently defined his country as a sovereign, independent State associated with the British Commonwealth of Nations.*

**LEST WE FORGET.** Aldershot's war memorial, a rock garden, is to be made of pieces of masonry sent from blitzed towns in Britain.

*The lamp used for lighting the Olympic torch has been presented to Princess Elizabeth by the people of Olympia, Greece.*

**QUITE A START.** When a typist arrived at her office in London recently and took the cover off her typewriter, she found a foot-long snake curled up under the roller. It was sent to the Zoo.

*Campers from all over Western Europe are attending the Ninth Camp and Congress of the International Federation of Camping Clubs at Foots Cray Place, Sidcup, Kent.*

**ABSENT.** The head boy of Bedford Modern School, Christopher Sands, aged 18, was prevented from carrying out his duties on Speech Day because he was called up for military duty the same morning.

*Lincolnshire's potato crop, the largest in the county's records, was saved from blight by spraying from a helicopter. The spraying lasted a fortnight.*

**RECORD.** The helicopter speed of 124.3 m.p.h. attained on June 28 at White Waltham, Berks, by Squadron-Leader B. Arkell has been confirmed as a world record.

*A new Royal Sovereign has replaced the old Thames estuary pleasure steamer of that name. The new Royal Sovereign is a motor-ship with a speed of over 20 knots.*

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**EXCHANGE.** Over 1700 Scouts from Great Britain are camping with foreign Scout Troops in 12 countries this summer. About 800 Scouts from nine countries, mostly in Europe, are here as guests of British Scouts.

*A party of Senior Scouts will join with young French Rover Scouts in an expedition to the French Alps, from August 14 to 29. The site of the expedition is d'Oisans, south of Grenoble.*

Ten British Guiders are attending the Scout and Guide Jamboree now being held in Iceland.

*Troop Leader Robert Quine has received a Letter of Commendation for Meritorious Conduct for the prompt and efficient manner in which he gave First Aid to a man injured while climbing in the Lake District.*

**GUIDE CONFERENCE.** Delegates from 24 countries are attending the Biennial Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at Cooperstown, New York State, from August 13 to 23.

*The Boy Scouts of Darlington recently collected more than 10,000 jam jars and bottles.*



## Just Two Timid Little Mice

These two amusing stories of mice came from our West Country correspondent.

A WOMAN went into a post office the other day, dropped her basket at the counter-end, and waited to be served. Presently, out from the basket crept a mouse! A big one! The post office girls shrieked. Women customers shrieked, too—except the woman with the basket. She went red in the face and stammered her apologies.

Master Mouse, as scared as anybody, took a flying leap to the floor, turned this way and that, and then scurried into the counter's nether regions. Two postmen appeared as if from nowhere, anxious to know what all the shrieking was about. In a second they were on their hands and knees, searching. They found the intruder at last and turned him out. Then the

post office settled down once more.

And what a commotion another mouse caused in a bus! The bus was almost full, when three small boys came on board. One of them carried a tiny box, and the bus had no sooner started than the lad cautiously, but not cautiously enough, removed the lid and peeped in. Out popped Master Mouse, jumped on the lad's knee, thence to the floor, and disappeared. Tiny girls and elderly women screamed and hurriedly knelt on their seats. There was such a panic that the conductor stopped the bus while he ferreted for the mouse, and restored it to its owner.

Risking no repetition, the conductor decided that the lad with the mouse and his companions had better continue the journey on foot!

## THE CRIPPLES' FRIEND

MANY former cripples owe the use of their limbs to a grand old lady, Dame Agnes Gwendoline Hunt, who has just passed on at the age of 81. A cripple herself who walked on crutches, Dame Agnes trained as a nurse, and in 1900, with donations amounting to only £132 2s 3d, she opened a small hospital in an old house in the little Shropshire village of Baschurch, her birthplace.

She worked with the famous orthopaedic surgeon, Sir Robert Jones, and from that small beginning at Baschurch there grew the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, the Derwen Cripples Training College, and an organisation for the after-care of cripples in Shropshire and the Midlands.

## REPLACING THEIR RATIONS

MEMBERS of the St. Nicholas Troop of Boy Scouts, Sunderland, had for months been saving rations for their annual camp holiday. They stored it in their clubhouse, but someone broke in and stole it all. Their Vicar then made an appeal to local housewives, who somehow managed to send the boys off on their holiday with abundant supplies.

## THE WHITE MAN'S MAGIC

NATIVE villagers of Southern Rhodesia have been gathering in the evenings recently to listen in wonder to a voice speaking to them in their own language from a small box.

The Lusaka broadcasting station away in Northern Rhodesia, not long ago, began broadcasting programmes in the native languages, Sindabele and Chisona. Lusaka has for some time been broadcasting in the principal dialects of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. It gives items of village news, talks, plays, and native music.

## Atlantic Adventurers in a Little Boat

A FEAT similar to those of the early Atlantic voyagers was accomplished by a small party of Latvian refugees who recently arrived at Boston, U.S.A., after crossing the Atlantic in a ketch 64 feet long, which they navigated by means of a sextant and wrist-watch, their only instruments.

Their voyage took them 42 days. Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic, from the Canary Islands in 36 days, and his ship, the Santa Maria, was 128 feet long.

The Latvian party hope to be allowed to settle in America.



## A London Beach

These youngsters find all the fun of the seaside by the River Thames at low-tide near the Tower of London

## A Famous Referee

LOVERS of soccer in Scotland, and many South of the Border, will be sorry to hear that Mr Peter Craigmyle, of Aberdeen, perhaps the most colourful of all referees, has announced his decision to retire from the field at the end of the coming football season. He will then have completed 30 years as a first-class referee, and at the moment has presided over no fewer than 26 Internationals. This is said to be a world's record.

Mr Craigmyle always delighted the crowds by his pointing finger and the dramatic attitudes he struck when he espied an infringement of the rules, but he also has always had a high reputation for quickness and accuracy of judgment. He will continue to take an active interest in the game as chief supervisor for the Scottish Football Association Referees' Committee.

## SHAKESPEARE AND A SHAKESPEARIAN

A LEADEN statue of Shakespeare which for over 100 years had stood in the portico of Drury Lane Theatre, London, and was long thought to be of plaster, was recently unveiled in its true form by John Gielgud. It now stands in the vestibule of the theatre, with the disfiguring paint removed.

Another unveiling carried out at the same time was a bust of Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, the famous Shakespearian actor who said good-bye to the stage at Drury Lane in 1913.

## The Train at the Doorstep

Few people can boast that a train stops daily at their doorstep to make a special delivery, but till recently this was the case with Mr and Mrs M'Donald, who live at the level crossing gates near Banff, on the Moray Firth. More curious still was the fact that the commodity delivered was water. The house has no water supply, so every day the train used to draw up at the level crossing for the guard to hand down a large can, of water and receive the "empty" in exchange. In future, however, the water is to be delivered by motor lorry.

## UNDERGROUND DIVING

NOT long ago a French cave explorer, Guy de Lavour, put on a diving-suit in order to descend into an underground lake in Padirac Cave in Southern France. He came to an underwater gallery leading off from the lake and, groping his way along this saw, in the light of his electric lamp, one of the denizens of this weird region—a blind, colourless, freshwater fish.

He hopes to go down again and obtain a live specimen of the fish whose ancestors, for countless generations, have dwelt in darkness.

## No Waiting

OF the 17,000 immigrants from Britain who settled in Ontario last year, there were one or two men who left their employment in Britain in the evening, travelled to Canada by air next day, and started work in their new jobs next morning.

This was revealed recently by Dr Dana Porter, Ontario Minister of Planning and Development, who also said that the improvement of shipping would enable Ontario to receive 20,000 immigrants from Britain by the end of the year.

## SPREADING OUR WOODLANDS

NEW woodlands for Britain, consisting of 54 million young trees, were planted in the year ended September 30, 1947. This is revealed in the Forestry Commission's 28th Annual Report (Stationery Office, 1s 3d).

The young trees, all grown from seed in the Commission's nurseries, were planted on 26,356 acres, an area two and a half times greater than that planted in the previous year.

The "grown-up" forests, cared for by the Commission, provided during the year much valuable timber used for telegraph and transmission poles, pit props, posts and stakes, and as wood for pulping and wall-board.

The woodland workers employed by the Commission increased during the year to 10,500. Five schools in different parts of the country are now being run by the Commission for training men as the forestry experts of the future.

## HE DID MUCH FOR THIRSTY BRITAIN

MOST people in Britain can obtain an ample supply of clear, pure water merely by turning a tap. It is a boon we are nearly all inclined to take for granted, even in hot weather.

One of the men to whom we owe much in this direction was Horace Bolingbroke Woodward, an early specialist in the geological factors connected with water supply, and who was born just a hundred years ago this month.

Woodward's interest in geological matters led him to undertake four years of painstaking research in the Library of the Geological Society, and as a result of his work here he was appointed to the staff of the Geological Survey of England and Wales, ultimately becoming Assistant Director.

Field work was his speciality, and as he travelled the length and breadth of the land he gained an unrivalled knowledge of the geological formation of the country. For this reason he was much sought after by local councils, who awaited his advice before embarking on municipal water schemes.

His advice was also available to those who came after him, for he wrote widely on geological subjects. His Geology of Water Supply has been of immense practical value and is still a useful source of reference.

Thirsty mortals certainly owe a great deal to Horace Woodward.

## British Books in Denmark

SPECIAL attention is being paid to the selection of children's books which are to be among a collection of about 2000 modern books displayed at Copenhagen in connection with the Federation of British Industries' Exhibition there from September 18 to October 3. The book display is being prepared by the British Council.

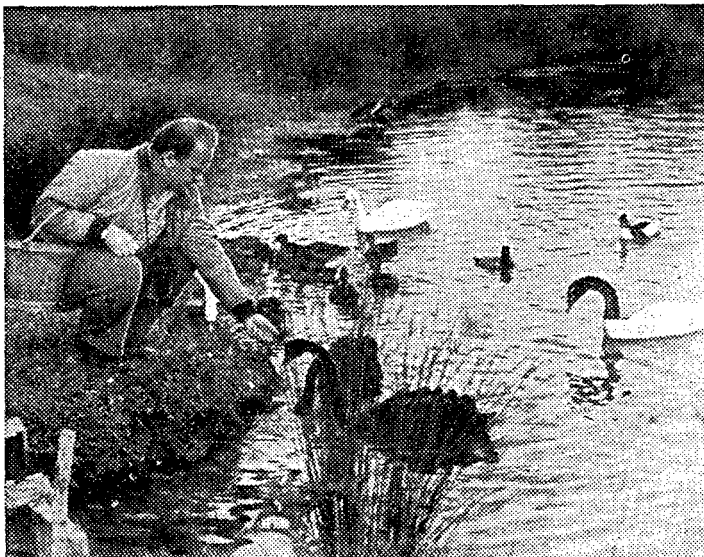
The books will be on view in two large rooms in a pleasant building overlooking a lake in the Tivoli Gardens. There will be a "Quiet Corner" where visitors can read at their leisure.

Visitors will also be able to hear gramophone recordings of famous poets reading from their own works. Among recorded examples of our classics will be Sir Laurence Olivier delivering the famous Crispin's Day speech from Shakespeare's Henry V.

## Olympic Twins



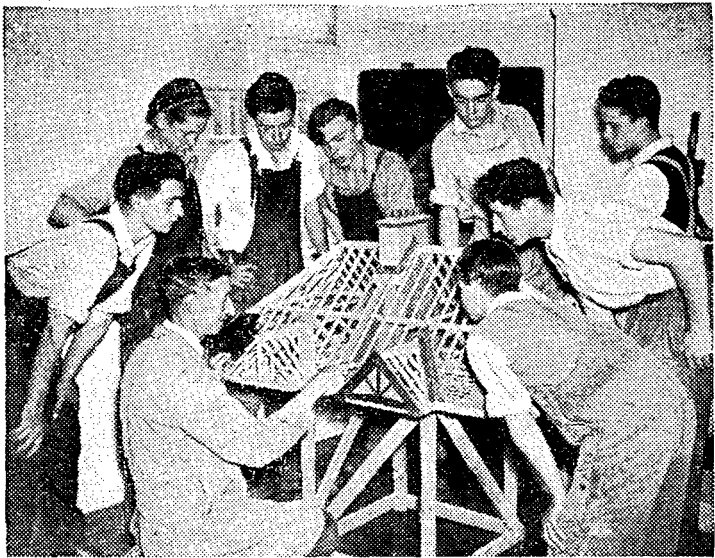
These 19-year-old twins from Iceland, Oern and Houker Clausen, have been competing in the Olympic Games.



## Their Rations

Peter Scott, the famous bird painter and naturalist, who is the director of the Severn Wildfowl Trust, feeds two Australian Black Swans in the sanctuary at Slimbridge





### How to Build a Roof

Eighteen boys between 15 and 18 are building a small estate at Hanwell, Middlesex. Here, some of the boys listen to their instructor as he demonstrates with a scale model roof built by two of the young craftsmen.

## FIRST MAN TO SWIM THE CHANNEL

A PART from the many swimming champions from all over the world who are in England for the Olympic Games, other swimmers have been arriving from abroad with a different aim—the crossing of the English Channel. The first across this season was Giovanni Gambi, of Italy, who swam from Cap Gris Nez to Dover.

The very first man to swim across the Channel was Captain Matthew Webb, who was born 100 years ago at Dawley, in Shropshire, the son of a doctor.

Webb learned to swim before he was seven, and throughout his life insisted that the younger the pupil the easier it is for him to swim. He joined the training ship Conway off Liverpool in 1857 with the intention of making the sea his career. Later in life, however, soon after he was made captain of a merchant ship, he gave up his seafaring career to become a swimming professional.

He had already become famous by a spontaneous act of great pluck. Serving on board the Cunard steamer Russia, he dived into a raging sea while the vessel was doing 14 knots to rescue a man who had fallen overboard. He was 37 minutes in an icy sea in which only a few men could have survived.

Although he failed to rescue his man his act was considered so courageous that the ship's passengers made up a purse of 100 guineas and presented it to him. He was awarded the silver medal of the Royal Humane Society, and in addition he became the

first recipient of their highest honour, the Stanhope Gold Medal, which was presented to him by the Duke of Edinburgh on the centenary festival of the society.

Still in his middle twenties, Captain Webb became famous for his long-distance swims off the Channel coast. Swims of 11, 18, then 19 miles had already become his regular exhibition programme when, in August 1875, he decided to try a crossing from England to France. He was already in strict training.

On Tuesday, August 24, 1875, at one o'clock Captain Webb dived off the Admiralty Pier, Dover, with Calais harbour as his goal. His skin covered with porpoise oil as a protection against the prolonged exposure to salt water, he started at the rate of twenty strokes a minute. During his whole swim, forty miles, he took no solid food, beef-tea and coffee alone sustaining him. He reached Calais after being in the water for 21 hours 44 minutes, and was cheered wildly as he stepped on the French shore.

Several years later Captain Webb went to the United States. On July 24, 1883, he dived into the Niagara River in an attempt to swim through the treacherous whirlpool. He was swept by the rapids beneath the Niagara suspension bridge and along at breath-taking speed through the narrow stretch of the river into the neck of the whirlpool.

It was Captain Webb's last swim. He disappeared in the swirling waters.

## The Balance That Found the Oil

At the Science Museum, South Kensington, a small exhibition is being held to commemorate the centenary of the birth of a famous Hungarian physicist, Baron Roland von Eötvös, who invented a torsion balance to study variations in the force of gravity between one place and another. His experiments, made at the end of the last century, led to the discovery of many of the world's great oilfields by this means.

A torsion balance consists chiefly of a small horizontal rod, often made of quartz, which is suspended by a thin wire. If the rod is turned the wire, of course, is twisted, but it resists

the twisting motion, and the force making this motion can be measured by the amount of twist produced. By using this instrument, geologists were able to measure slight variations in gravity caused by the presence under the Earth's surface of large accumulations of oil—and thus the presence of the oil was revealed.

Eötvös also demonstrated, by experiment that a body moving towards the east suffers an apparent loss of weight. He showed, too, that the rotation of the Earth can be detected by a rotating gravity balance.

The Science Museum Exhibition is on view until September.

## Drawing the Good Bow

THE World's Archery Championships, which are being held this week at Dulwich College, draw attention to a sport which is becoming increasingly popular in these islands, particularly in Scotland. They also recall far-off days when bows and arrows were the arms not only of Robin Hood and his Merry Men but of the armies that first made our country renowned in war.

During the reign of 11 English sovereigns, from Edward the Second to Henry the Eighth, we were the supreme archers, and in that time our infantry was unmatched.

For centuries mounted archers played a vital role in war, and in Plantagenet and Tudor England archery was thought so important that it was practised, by law, to the exclusion of all other exercises, Sundays and holidays not excepted. In order that national needs should not denude the land of yew trees for the bows, however, it was ordained that only the best soldier-archers should be permitted to have bows of yew, and the makers had to produce four bows of either ash, wych-hazel or elm for every bow of yew, while every ton of certain imports had to include ten yew-tree bows. The martyred Bishop Latimer proudly recorded how his father, a poor yeoman, taught him archery as a boy: "He taught me how to draw, how to lay my body in my bow, and



A woman archer practising for the World's Archery Championships.

not to draw with the strength of arms as other nations do, but with the strength of the body."

Such were the main weapons of our armies before gunpowder—and powerful weapons they were. It is in the national records that a 12th-century archer shot an English arrow through an oak door four inches thick, the head of the missile standing out a hand's breadth on the other side. A modern London archer has recently driven his arrow through a stuffed suit of armour.

### CAT WITH ORIGINAL IDEAS

A FAMILY at Klaver, South Africa, own a cat with unusual habits. It will not sleep in the house, but is often found in the morning on the top of a pole in the garden asleep, covered with frost. It does not like milk, but drinks water from the tap by clutching it with its fore-paws and turning it full on.

## The Editor's Table

### FOREVER FREEDOM

HAPPINESS is Freedom and Freedom is Courage. Thus, in a few words, did the Greek statesman Pericles sum up ideals of living which have inspired millions of human beings in the past, and were never more needed than today.

Belief in Freedom as the finest expression and highest hope for man's soul is a deeply-laid belief in the hearts of civilised men:

*When freedom from her mountain height  
Unfurled her standard in the air,  
She tore the azure robe of night  
And set the stars of glory there.*

Poets, painters, philosophers, and unheralded ranks of ordinary men all over the world have always held Freedom dear; and it seems that every generation of mankind has to win Freedom in its own way. There are threats to it on every hand and in particular, in modern times, from the organisation of states which, growing more and more powerful, threaten to destroy Freedom for the individual.

To resist this onslaught on the human spirit will demand courage now as it did in previous generations. "Where liberty dwells there is my country," said Milton—a recognition that Freedom knows no frontier and claims the help of all men to go to her assistance in the hour of peril. For without liberty to "utter and to argue freely according to conscience" the soul of man withers, and his life slowly suffocates. As surely as day follows night, so was man born to Freedom and condemned to unhappiness unless he enjoys it.

Pericles propounded one of the fundamental truths of human existence which the growing generations will do well to think on. Theirs will be the task not only of defending Freedom but of using it wisely, because Freedom is protected best by its practice.

### THE BUTTERFLY

CHILD of the sun! pursue thy rapturous flight,  
Mingling with her thou lovest in fields of light;  
And, where the flowers of paradise unfold,  
Quaff fragrant nectar from their cups of gold.  
There shall thy wings, rich as an evening sky,  
Expand and shut with silent ecstasy!  
Yet wert thou once a worm, a thing that crept  
On the bare earth, then wrought a tomb and slept.  
And such is man; soon from his cell of clay  
To burst a seraph in the blaze of day.

Samuel Rogers

### JUST AN IDEA

*As Pascal wrote, The heart has reasons of which reason has no knowledge.*

## OUR NATIONAL PARKS

IN the session of Parliament which begins in October, a National Parks Bill is to be introduced, which is expected to give authority for 12 areas in England and Wales to be taken over, in annual instalments, and preserved as National Parks.

These areas of beautiful open country will be: The Lake District, Snowdonia, the Peak District, Dartmoor, the Yorkshire Dales, the Pembrokeshire coast, Exmoor, the South Downs, the Roman Wall, the North Yorkshire Moors, the Norfolk Broads, the Black Mountains, and the Brecon Beacons. They cover altogether 5682 square miles, and it is estimated that the cost of establishing them as National Parks will be £9,250,000 in the first ten years.

It is not thought that there will be any opposition in Parliament to this magnificent plan. There can be little difference of opinion about the desirability of preserving some of the loveliest parts of this country for all its people for all time.

### Fires in the Wrong Places

IT is bad news indeed that so far this year more than 1100 fires have damaged Britain's State forests, many of them caused by careless smokers and picnic parties. The fires have burnt 1800 acres, destroying nearly 2½ million young trees.

Many of our young woodlands are now reaching the stage where they can produce much-needed timber, and their destruction is a blow to the whole nation.

The Forestry Commission appeals earnestly to smokers not to throw away smouldering matches, cigarette ends, or pipe tobacco; and to picnic parties not to light fires or stoves near woodlands or dry vegetation.

Scouts, Guides, and other youth organisations, who have been well-trained in camp-fire routine, can be depended upon to set a good example.

## Under the E



PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If gramophones play  
revolutionary music

THE modern child is never given the cane. If he were he would know what to do with it.

A CERTAIN athlete likes plenty of fish on the menu. How does he manage to read it?

SMART people enjoy snappy talk. But do not break their word.

WRINKLES show character. We can read between the lines.

VOLUNTARY workers to help Suffolk farmers are said to be a willing band. But they don't want to play.



## Backing Up the United Nations

THE United Nations Association, which exists to win popular support for the United Nations, has recently published its Annual Report; and it shows that the Association is growing in numbers and influence in spite of the present grave international difficulties.

The Association's growth shows that British people are increasingly placing their faith in the United Nations. That faith is strengthened by its achievements. Solid achievements they are, too, for let it not be forgotten that United Nations has saved Persia's independence; stopped large-scale bloodshed in Indonesia and Kashmir; saved Egypt from cholera; saved the world from famine in 1946-47 through its Food and Agriculture Organisation. Moreover, its Refugee Organisation is saving the lives of 700,000 displaced persons, and its Children's Fund is saving four million children and mothers in Europe alone.

It can be added that Europe's steel production has been boosted by 1½ million tons, thanks to the work of UN's Economic Commission in Europe.

As Mr Arthur Eden has said: "There is no task more important at present than U.N.A's. There was never in all history a time when there was more need of understanding between nations. Go out and talk to other people. Tell them that the world must accept international order or perish. Dedicate yourselves to that task."

## A Wish

My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began;  
So is it now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The child is father of the man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural  
piety.

Wordsworth

## Editor's Table

THERE is no falling off in fair-ground attendance. Not even from the roundabouts.

A CERTAIN man, nervous of catching cold, airs his newspaper. As well as his views.

IN spite of the climate the British put on open air shows. Try them out.

CLEVER boys are often the naughtiest. The top of the school gets whipped.



THE customer is still always right, says a shopkeeper. Unless he is left in the queue.

## THINGS SAID

You couldn't do better than marry a Scot.

Queen Elizabeth,  
to a N.Z. teacher

If any one sees children in the district using our organ pipes as trumpets or pea-shooters we should be very grateful if they would return them.

Rev'd D. F. Strudwick  
of Peckham

EXPECTING a genius to impart genius is like expecting Einstein to teach maths.

George Bernard Shaw

WORK never harmed anybody.

Mrs Bayes, aged  
100, of Wollaston

SINCE Independence Day in India, there have been some great tragedies and injustices and some things which we all deplore, but at the same time there has been great progress under the stimulus of the dynamic spirit that is abroad.

Lord Wavell

## The Threat to Cannock Chase

NEARLY 13,000 Staffordshire people signed a petition to the Prime Minister against the proposal by the military authorities to acquire a part of lovely Cannock Chase as a permanent training ground.

Many more people will feel indignant at this unfortunate proposal to restrict the public's enjoyment of a famous stretch of open moorland which lies close to the thickly-populated towns of the "Black Country."

Cannock Chase consists of about 25 square miles of moorland with deep valleys, masses of bracken, brown streams, birch woods, and hills crowned with pines. It was once the hunting ground of kings, and wolves lurked there as late as 1280.

It is, in particular, as Mr Swingle, M.P. for Stafford, said recently: "the 'lung' for an urbanised and congested part of the west Midlands."

Let us hope there will be second thoughts about the proposal to spoil this delightful natural playground.

## Close Friends

THE close co-operation and friendship between this country and the Dominions was emphasised recently by Dr Evatt, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.

"Today," he said, "the relationship of the British Government and the Australian Government is closer and more intimate than ever before. Consultation and communication take place daily, almost hourly, by one agency or another. Consultation covers the whole field of international relations and indeed every activity of common concern."

Dr Evatt, who is also Australian Minister for External Affairs, is representing his country at the U.N. Economic and Social Council at Geneva, and will lead the Australian delegation at the U.N. Assembly in Paris in September.

## A NEW TOWN FOR KENYA

THE evacuation of India, Egypt, and Palestine left the British Army in the Middle East without a home. Now 36 square miles of veld in Kenya have been chosen as a stores base.

Some idea of the job in hand may be gauged from the fact that no fewer than 50 buildings, each 200 feet long, 100 feet wide, and 30 feet high, will eventually be required; already thousands of workers are digging the foundations of what is virtually a new town.

Sappers have laid a 75-mile pipeline from the Tsavo River. Harnessed for the first time from the slopes of snow-clad Kilimanjaro, over the Tanganyika border, this water—45,000 gallons of it daily—is now on tap in the camp.

To feed the town, it is intended to irrigate the land, cultivate fruits and vegetables, and start pig and chicken farms. It will also be necessary to make a new 65-mile road from Mombasa, the nearest port.

Within the next few months, hundreds of thousands of tons of military equipment will be on its way to the Empire's biggest stores depot, and experts from all parts of the Commonwealth will be taking up permanent residence in the latest and most modern town won from the African jungle.

## Scottish Dance



The charm and grace of the Sword Dance at a Highland Games meeting.

## Treasures Lost and Found

WHAT had virtually become hidden treasure was discovered at Oxford not long ago. It was a collection of 16th-century astronomical instruments, including an astrolabe of A.D. 984 which had belonged to Queen Elizabeth.

At the beginning of the war this collection had been put away in a safe place by Dr R. T. Gunther, Curator of the Oxford Museum of History and Science. But he told no one where he had hidden the treasures, and he died without leaving any clue.

An intensive search was made for them, and inquiries were even made in overseas countries where it was thought he might have sent them; all without result.

Then someone became curious about a number of labelled boxes in the vault of the Museum. They were opened and found to contain the missing instruments. Dr Gunther had evidently put misleading labels on the boxes in order to deceive the enemy should Britain be invaded.

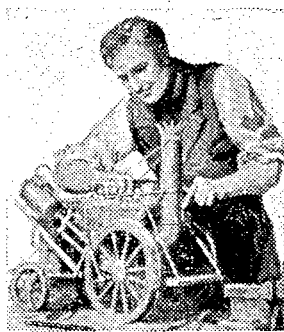
## He Gave Railways to the World

OUR railways having been nationalised, August 12 would seem to merit some form of national recognition, for it marks the 100th anniversary of the death of George Stephenson, the great railway pioneer.

Born at Wylam, near Newcastle, on June 9, 1781, George Stephenson was one of six children who, with their parents, lived and slept in the single room of a clay-floored cottage. His father, a colliery engine-minder, earned 12s weekly, while George worked as a herd-boy at two-pence a day, increased by another daily two-pence when he added hoeing to his work. At 14 he became assistant to his father, but not until he neared manhood was there time for him to learn to read and write. To increase his meagre income he mended the villagers' boots, and clocks and watches, and neatly cut out the cloth from which neighbouring housewives made their menfolk's clothes.

Meanwhile, he had become a masterly mechanic, taking his engine to pieces every week-end for practice, and able to make with his own hands any new part that it needed. As proof of another aspect of his untrained genius he made a safety lamp for miners with which he traversed the deadliest parts of a mine filled with explosive gas. For this he was awarded a prize of £1000. He built two steam engines for hauling coal in trucks over rails in the colliery, and when it was proposed to construct a Stockton-Darlington tramway for horse-drawn mineral traffic, he persuaded the promoters to substitute his steam locomotives, with himself as engineer of the line.

The project was bitterly opposed, and Stephenson was mocked and derided; but on September 27, 1825, with George himself as driver, the engine hauled six trucks of coal and flour and one coachful of passengers—the first railway journey ever made. It was a complete triumph and, returning at night, the train was festooned with cheering passengers clinging



to it, like grapes on a vine.

Even this immense success failed to win full support for Stephenson and his mighty invention, so when the Liverpool to Manchester line was completed he had competitors during a preliminary trial race. Then it was that his engine, the famous Rocket, steaming at upwards of 30 miles an hour, outdistanced all rivals and finally set the seal on its inventor's fame.

With great engine works established at Newcastle, Stephenson now built railways all over the country and, adding coal mines to his interests, became deservedly wealthy. He had given the world railways and all the world honoured him, as it honoured his famous son Robert.

George Stephenson's closing years were devoted to the pursuits of a country gentleman at Tapton House, near Chesterfield. There, exactly a century ago, he died, author of the greatest revolution mankind had until that time witnessed.

## Round and Round in Windsor Park

ONE of the greatest cycle races ever held in this country will be fought out this Friday. Cyclists from 32 countries will contest the Olympic road race on a seven-mile circuit that will encircle the King's country lodge in Windsor Great Park.

The narrow lanes, with their twists and turns and sharp hills, will prove a severe test of strength and stamina, for although the actual course is only just over seven miles long the racers must cover it 17 times, a distance of nearly 121 miles. This is the longest-ever course for the Olympic road race and the winner will thoroughly deserve the title of champion.



THIS ENGLAND

A quiet reach of the Thames at Remenham, Berkshire



## Nurses For Sick Animals

THE training of women to be veterinary nurses was one of the subjects discussed at the recent meeting in London of the Animal Health Trust.

The Trust was formed in 1942 to raise the standard of health of Britain's animal population, and to increase their economic value to us. For it is estimated that Britain loses about £60,000,000 a year owing to disease in its livestock.

One of the aims of the Trust is to establish at least one animal hospital in each county, and it would be at these hospitals that veterinary nurses and technical assistants—most of them women—would be trained. At present there are no provisions for training women as nurses for animals.

Although the Animal Health Trust has the enthusiastic approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, it receives no money from the Government, and must raise all its funds from voluntary donations. The Trust has already expended over £30,000 on veterinary scholarships. Further educational and research work to which it is committed will involve the spending of £200,000 a year, and, beyond that, money will have to be found to build county animal hospitals.

Last year the Trust bought a 900-acre estate near St Ives, Huntingdon, where it founded a station for poultry disease research, the first of its kind in the country. The Trust plans to found other stations for the study of animal diseases.

All this is indeed a work of first-rate national importance.

## THIS KIND WORLD

A big motor-boat on the way to America from Sweden with 29 Estonian refugees on board recently had to call in at Stornoway, in the north of Scotland, on account of bad weather. As soon as the good citizens of the little port heard of their arrival a collection was made and a sum of £50 was handed to the captain of the motor-boat for the purchase of stores. Not to be outdone, a little girl who had noticed some children among the refugees ran home and fetched some of her toys for them.

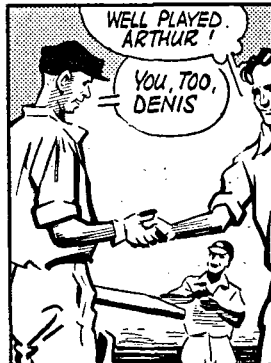
## Steps to Sporting Fame



Arthur Robert Morris, of New South Wales, is the first left-hand batsman to open for Australia since Warren Bardsley retired 20 years ago.



Aged 26, Arthur has had a rapid advance. He started his first-class career by scoring two separate centuries against Queensland in 1941. His war service was in the Pacific.



Back to civil life, he played for Australia against the MCC 1946-7 tourists and hit two separate centuries at Adelaide, after Denis Compton had done the same for England.



Morris, who has scored exactly 500 runs in the first four Tests, usually fields in the deep. He is also a fine Rugby footballer. His occupation is that of a car salesman.

## Bradman's Last Test Match

THE fact that England are without a Test victory in the present series with Australia (writes the CN Sportsman) will detract nothing from the interest of the final match which starts at the Oval on Saturday. With two early victories followed by a drawn game at Old Trafford, the fate of the Ashes was decided; and yet so keen was the interest in the Fourth Test, at Headingley, that all attendance records were broken for a Test in this country.

That record may be beaten at the Oval, for every cricket follower will wish to pay tribute to the great Don Bradman, scorer of over 5000 runs in Test cricket, who is playing in his last Test there.

Kennington Oval, home of the Surrey County C.C., has proved England's most successful Test ground. In 18 matches played there we have won ten, and the Australians three.

The first Test in this country, in 1880, was played at Kennington Oval. In the 18 matches England's batsmen have scored 8721 runs, the Australians 7647. The world's record Test score of 903 for seven wickets was set up at the Oval in 1938, when England registered an amazing victory, after Len Hutton, the Yorkshire opening batsman, had scored 364 runs, another record.

It would be a fitting finale to Bradman's wonderful Test career if he and his men could reverse that result. We can be forgiven, however, for hoping that England will record her first victory of the 1948 series on this London ground.

## MOB RULER

WHEN a mob who were infuriated about events in Palestine gathered recently in Amman, the Capital of Transjordan, King Abdullah of Transjordan himself confronted them and lectured them on their bad behaviour.

A few days later another angry mob broke into the grounds of Ragadan Palace and again the courageous King walked out by himself and reproached them for their lawless conduct. Once again the mob dispersed, thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

## HAVE A TASTY DISH OF SEAWEED!

After a stormy night many a young holidaymaker has been disappointed to find the sands covered with seaweed. "The most useless stuff on earth," he may have been tempted to call it. But he would be quite wrong. Here are just a few of its uses.

It was reported not long ago that a man living in a Devonshire cave was eating seaweed. The very latest idea is to wrap food and sweets in transparent edible "paper" made from seaweed. And only the other day (writes a CN correspondent) I saw a film showing how seaweed is used in the manufacture of ice-cream!

The seaweed known as Irish Moss is boiled down to a thick colourless jelly, very nutritious and digestible. It may be put into jams and jellies; it makes gelatine; and, sweetened and flavoured, it provides a nourishing blancmange.

In many countries to eat seaweed is to enjoy a luxury. Brilliant green or warm purple, Laver is stewed in a silver saucepan in Ireland during the winter and early springtime: this is the delicacy called "sloke," which is valued in the Western Isles of Scotland, too. There is a red ribbon-weed which they call "Duilease" in Ireland. This is frequently eaten, both raw and cooked, for breakfast: it tastes

like roasted oysters. In the Faroe Islands and in Denmark the fisherfolk know and value these dishes, and in Iceland they dry and prepare the seaweed as a sweet. Dulse, Laver, and Murlin are served as vegetables along the Irish coasts. In Wales one may be offered Laver Bread.

On the beach may often be seen Tangles—those long strings of olive-brown seaweed. Tangles is the midrib of a species that may grow to 20 feet long, and it, too, is edible. "Tangles!" they used to cry through the Edinburgh streets, and the thrifty housewives bought it eagerly.

## For Curing Ills

Seaweed brings health. From it is now extracted a substitute for cod-liver-oil: this is green, and it tastes, surprisingly, of coffee. Agar-agar, obtained by boiling down a red seaweed, is needed to make culture for bacteria, capsules for medicines, a treatment for constipation, and a poultice of merit. From the deep-sea Wrack piled up on the Hebrides and Orkneys by the furious Atlantic gales ten times more iodine can be extracted than from the weed harvested by barelegged men at low tide.

Seaweed is a grand fodder for animals, too! Healthy beasts mean good milk, butter, and cheese for our families, as well

as good meat and bacon. In New Zealand dairy farmers chop seaweed for their herds. Irish farmers find it wonderful for calves and lambs when mixed with milk, and they also boil it with milk and potatoes to fatten pigs.

There is another way in which seaweed feeds us indirectly: it makes good humus for growing vegetables. The Channel Islanders gather the "wrack" at low tide to mix with their light and sandy soil. It soon forms the rich dark loam in which the famous new potatoes and tomatoes are grown; and Cornish broccoli is also grown with seaweed as fertiliser. The islanders of the Western coasts of Ireland and Scotland regularly harvest their wealth of seaweed to use as humus for their tiny hard-won patches of soil between the rock outcrops. Indeed, on Inishmore, off the Galway coast, their soil has actually been made by putting sand, dead vegetation, and seaweed on the bare rock!

So many new ideas for using seaweed have lately been discovered that Americans have been experimenting with farming it in fairly shallow waters—and they have even invented an underwater seaweed-harvester which works with knives and rakes on an endless chain.

## GULLIVER'S ADVENTURES IN LILLIPUT — Dean Swift's Famous Tale Told in Pictures



Not long after Gulliver was set free, the Emperor's Principal Secretary visited him and explained that Lilliput was at war with the neighbouring island of Blefuscu. The war had started because thousands of Lilliputian rebels had fled to Blefuscu; and the ruler of that island wanted to help these rebels to overthrow the Emperor of Lilliput and seize power for their own party.



For in Lilliput there were two rival parties; one party—the Emperor's—believed in opening their boiled eggs at the little end; the rival party opened theirs at the big end. The Big Endians were sternly suppressed, but the people of Blefuscu were also Big Endians and had prepared a large fleet to invade Lilliput. The Emperor wanted Gulliver to destroy this fleet before it sailed.



Gulliver had already promised to help the Lilliputians and he kept his word. He obtained a lot of their strongest thread-like ropes, and some iron bars—about the size of knitting needles. He twisted the bars into hooks and tied 50 of the ropes to them. Then he waded and swam across the narrow channel that divided the island of Lilliput from the island kingdom of Blefuscu.



The Blefuscuans knew nothing of Gulliver's arrival in Lilliput, for the war had stopped news being sent from Lilliput to Blefuscu. At the sight of him they swam from their ships to shore, where a vast crowd gathered. Gulliver began fastening a hook to each warship. At that thousands of arrows were shot at him, and he paused in his work, fearing they would pierce his eyes.

Will Gulliver Succeed in Towing the Enemy Fleet Away? See Next Week's Instalment



The Children's Newspaper, August 14, 1948

## ZOO BULL-FROGS CALLING

By Our Own Correspondent

Six large North-American bull-frogs have just completed the biggest "jump" of their lives—3000 miles—by aeroplane from Philadelphia to the London Zoo. Now on show at the reptile house these newcomers, the first bull-frogs the Zoo has had since before the war, are likely to become popular exhibits, for they have some unusual accomplishments. They stage a "change-colour" act; they sing choruses; and they have amazing appetites. Incidentally, they are the largest frogs in the Zoo collection. None weighs less than half a pound, and, as a keeper put it to me, "if they were put on the scales immediately after their bi-weekly meal, they'd probably weigh close on one pound."

### Changing Colour

The frogs resemble enormous toads, except that, while their backs are dark-green, their "waistcoats" are beautifully mottled with yellowish spots. That, at least, is their normal coloration. But put them on some nice fresh grass, and their backs gradually turn light green. Transfer them to a darker carpet, and they go almost black—all except that "waistcoat," which remains bright and becoming! In this respect frogs resemble chameleons, though the range of their changes is not quite so extensive. Black to light green, with all the intermediate hues, seems to complete their repertoire.

The frogs have big throat pouches which amplify their voices so efficiently that their harsh croaks can be heard right down to the end of the public corridor. Their chorus is "sung" each evening at dusk, and visitors hearing this "concert" for the first time find it hard to believe that the incredible noise is coming from a mere half-dozen frogs!

Although the frogs croak spontaneously during the evening, the keeper can persuade them to demonstrate their powers at any time of day by pouring water from one pail to another, just outside their den. The sound of the splashing water usually starts them off.

### Hearty Eaters

The newcomers are hearty eaters. The keepers give them small frogs mostly; but the mouths of the bull-frogs are so large that they can, and do, engulf small dead rats without any difficulty.

Among these newcomers are a breeding pair, and the Zoo hopes that they will in due course make their contribution to the "nursery." "Although, before the war, we used to keep bull-frogs pretty regularly, it is many years since we bred any on the premises," a keeper said. "When the breeding season comes we shall put them into a den well furnished with moss and plants and a small pool. The female will lay her eggs in the water, and if they are fertile we should soon have bull-frog tadpoles. The tadpoles resemble those of common frogs, but are much larger and more active. If a family arrives, our first task will be to remove both parents, because bull-frogs are cannibals and would soon account for all their babies if left with them."

C. H.

## The Long Story of the Royal Opera House

LAST week the C N noted that the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, is to be bought by the Government; and so, at last, Britain is to have as her own national opera house a 216-year-old theatre with a colourful history.

Covent Garden Opera House was established in 1732 by John Rich, a theatrical manager, and there is a picture by Hogarth illustrating Rich's Glory, or Triumphant Entry into Covent Garden. The first production staged there was Wycherley's Way of the World. The cheapest seats were one shilling, but 10s 6d was paid for a seat on the stage itself.

Famous actors played at Rich's new theatre—Garriek, Quin, Mrs Cibber, Mrs Woffington. Some of them despised Rich, for although he was a generous fellow he was quite illiterate and would talk of "larning" an actor his part.

Scenery at the theatre was elaborate, and Horace Walpole wrote of it: "They have flung open the stage to a great length, and made a perfect view of Venice..." The painter of the scenery was a jolly fellow named George Lambert. When he was busy painting at Covent Garden it was the custom for fashionable men to come and watch him at work and eat beefsteaks freshly cooked "on the set." From this grew the "Sublime Society of the Steaks" which lasted as a social club until 1867.

Handel became associated with the new theatre in 1734, and a number of his operas were produced there without much success. In 1743, however, came his oratorio The Messiah, a great triumph. It was performed in the presence of King George II, and the custom of standing up for the Hallelujah Chorus began on that occasion, the King being the first to rise.

The Opera House was 76 years old when stark tragedy came to it. Fire broke out in the empty building one night in 1808, and it was gutted, all the excellent scenery and costumes being com-

pletely lost. Within a year a new Covent Garden had arisen, bigger than the first and among the largest theatres in Europe. Prices for admission were raised, and this led to the O P (Old Price) Riots, which lasted for three months. At every performance audiences hissed, booed, and yelled "O P" in unison, until the proprietors were obliged to meet their demands.

In 1829 the Opera House was in financial difficulties, and Alfred Bunn, the manager, asked the Government to subsidise it. Sir Robert Peel refused in six lines.

In 1847 it was reconstructed and opened as the Royal Italian Opera House, and it was in this building that Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale" enchanted all audiences.

Fire again completely gutted the theatre in 1856, but a third Covent Garden (the present one and since 1892 called the Royal Opera House) was built and opened in 1858. Three years later a young girl of 18 held her first Covent Garden spellbound—Adelina Patti, afterwards to become one of the most famous sopranos in the world. In 1888 the Australian Nellie Melba made her debut at Covent Garden; and in 1907 Tetrazzini's voice first enchanted music-lovers here.

During the last war this historic theatre played its part as a dance hall, and it became very popular with Service men and women on leave; but at the end of the war Messrs Boosey & Hawkes, the music publishers, acquired a five-year lease of the Royal Opera House in order to restore it as the national home of opera and ballet. The Government gave support and now is to take it over altogether. May it long continue to serve the cause of Art!

## 700th Birthday of the City of Peace

THE HAGUE, the Dutch city which will go down to history as the scene of the nations' first efforts towards world peace, recently celebrated its 700th anniversary. The fine buildings of the inner town were flood-lit, and a historical play was produced in the open air in front of the 13th-century Knights' Hall.

The Hague in Dutch is called 's Gravenhage (the Count's hedge) or in abbreviated form den Haag. The town began as the hunting lodge of the Counts of Holland, but when Count Floris V made it his residence in the 13th century it became the seat of the Supreme Court of Justice of Holland.

### BRUIN ON THE WARPATH

VILLAGERS in the Pyrenees have recently had to organise themselves into parties of guards to protect their sheep, and even cattle, from groups of big brown bears.

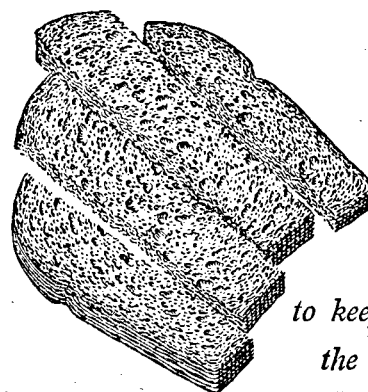
The brown bear is still found in the Pyrenees, as well as in Scandinavia, Germany, Hungary, and Russia, and sometimes grows to a length of eight feet from the end of his snout to the root of his tail. As a rule brown bears

It has been the seat of the Netherlands Government since the 16th century, and began to assume its international character towards the end of the 17th century, many treaties and conventions between nations being signed there. In 1899 The Hague Peace Conference set up the Permanent Court of Arbitration for settling disputes between nations. Andrew Carnegie, the millionaire, provided the money for building the Palace of Peace there which was inaugurated in 1913.

Today The Hague is a city of handsome buildings, canals, and shady avenues, and has a population of about 476,500.

are not seen in groups, but a male and female may prowl together, or a female with her cubs. Although the European brown bear often kills and eats other animals, it is uncommon for him to attack domestic animals, for he is afraid of man, and stories of his ferocity are much exaggerated. Brown bears can be easily tamed, and in the past they were often led about and made to dance by showmen.

The children are eating more Hovis and honey . . .



to keep their strength up the natural way

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Hrr



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THE FUNNY FIZZERS.  
"BOBBY'S BIRTHDAY"

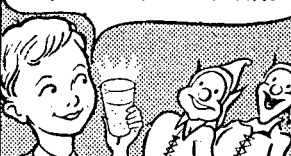
LINGFO! I'VE GOT AN IDEA  
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GOOD IDEA FIZZ! WE'LL  
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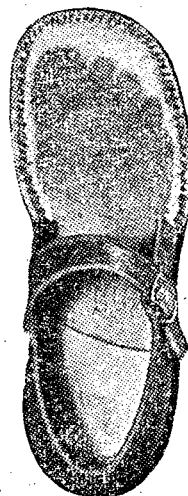
## Let your own foot show you

This is a picture of a Clarks sandal with the upper removed to show the natural mark made by a child's foot. Notice how much free space there is for width and forward growth round the toes. Clarks shoes give the best assurance of healthy feet. Supplies are scarce—Clarks make more than ever but the demand still exceeds production.

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## THE BRAN TUB

### CRICKETER'S LAMENT

I'll admit I'm rather weary  
And at times not awfully bright,  
But well! I ask you really!  
Do you think it's quite right  
That every time we play a game—  
Now this just puts the lid on—  
I'm placed where I "can make a name,"  
That is, at "silly" mid on.

### What Your Name Means

Lewis, Louis .. lion-like  
Lillian .. .. lily  
Lionel .. .. little lion  
Lois .. .. better  
Lola .. .. sorrows  
Lucy .. .. born at day

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Mrs Buzzard likes decorations. A faint mewling cry caused Don to glance upward. High overhead a great bird soared.

"It's a buzzard," said Farmer Gray. "Notice the odd corkscrew flight, as it ascends, and its broad, blunt wings."

"They are pretty big birds, are they not?" queried Don.

"A male measures about 21 inches and a female 23 inches," replied the farmer. "Despite their size, they are not particularly fierce. Rats, mice, young rabbits, and small birds figure on the buzzards' menu; beetles, too, are eaten. Buzzards have an odd habit of decorating the interior of their nest with sprays of greenery, replacing them as they wither."

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### Belinda the Bee

BELINDA was a gay and good-looking young Bee, but unfortunately she was very conceited. She thought she was grand enough to be a Queen Bee.

"Oh no, you're not!" the Nurse Bees buzzed. "We have one Queen in this hive, and that is enough. You are a Worker Bee, like us."

"Me only a Worker!" cried Belinda discontentedly.

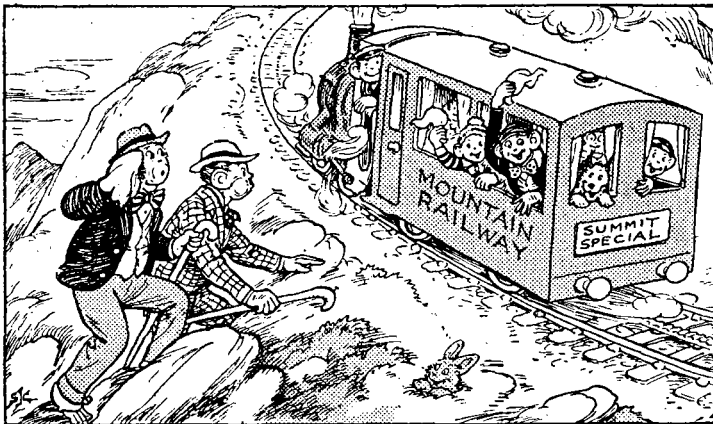
"We Worker Bees are very important indeed!" the Nurses hummed angrily. "Without us there would be no honey, no work done in the hive, and the Queen would die."

Belinda only half believed them. So the Nurses sent her to work with the young Fanning Bees, whose job she couldn't help realising was important. For they fanned fresh air into the hive to keep everyone fit.

Belinda found them standing at the entrance to the hive beating their wings hard. "Come and help us fan!" they cried. "It's extra hot today."

Grumbling, Belinda joined them on the doorstep of the hive, and set her wings fanning too. Soon, however, she began to enjoy working with them and seeing other Worker Bees coming in and out with honey from the buttercups and white clover.

## Jacko Gets to the Top



"HOW about a spot of mountain climbing?" asked Father Jacko one morning after breakfast. "Do you good, Jacko, my boy." "All right," agreed Jacko, "we will race you to the top." They set off with Father's laugh still ringing in their ears. "Experience will tell," he had chuckled. But he had reckoned without the wiles of young Jacko. As Father Jacko and Adolphus, red-faced and perspiring from their exertions, reached the three-quarter stage, Jacko, Chimp, and Baby passed them on the "Mountain Railway Special!" "You're quite right, sir," chuckled Jacko, "experience will tell!"

### KEEPING MARROWS

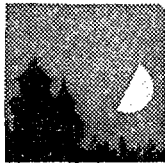
VEGETABLE marrows and cucumbers may be kept fresh for a long time after they have been cut from the plant, by very simple means. All we have to do is melt some candle wax in a can, and, when liquid, dip the cut stalks so that they are sealed up. This prevents loss of moisture and the marrows will not shrivel even if they are kept for some time. They should be stored in a cool place.

### Maxim to Memorise

TRUTH will always rise above falsehood as oil above water.

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south. In the morning Venus is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 9.30 on Thursday evening, August 12.



### HIDDEN COUNTRIES

HIDDEN in the following sentences are the names of four countries, reversed. Can you find them?

"This is blood plasma, I suppose," said John.

"To think I am rubbing shoulders with a duchess," chuckled Sheila.

Sam ran lightly over the solid lava, Jack following closely.

Once he made up his mind it was difficult to deter Charles.

Answer next week

### Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, August 11 to Tuesday, August 17.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Angharad's Well—a story; The Echoing Steps (2); Fanfare and Funfare. North, 5.0 The Father of Railways. Scottish, 5.0 Golf Balls; Leven Junior Secondary School Choir. 5.40 Variety.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Farmer Drowsy and Farmer Timmy (Part 1); Red-shank's Warning (4). North, 5.0 From Chester Zoo. Welsh, 5.0 Competition and story in Welsh. 5.30 Variety.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Farmer Drowsy and Farmer Timmy (2). 5.15 A Norman and Henry Bones Story. Midland, 5.15 The Three Keys—a play; Two Pianos. N. Ireland, 5.0 A Play; Midge Hauls the Hay—a discussion; Songs. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-Song.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Camping; Songs. Scottish, 5.0 Isle of Arran.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Dominic, Hound of the Lord—a play. Midland, 5.0 The Walls Remember. North, 5.0 Story; Recital.

MONDAY, 5.0 The Plunge—a story. 5.15 Film Review; Records. 5.40 Sixpence—a story. N. Ireland, 5.0 Seamus Seagull—a story; Billy Bike's Broadcast; Badger's Adventure; Ballymena Model School Choir. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-Song; Walter and the Winter Coat; Hobbies; Commonwealth Affairs.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Kirkintilloch Junior Choir; Nature Scrapbook. North, 5.0 Four in Hand; Quiz Game. Welsh, 5.0 Story, a choir, and feature on W. G. Grace, in Welsh.

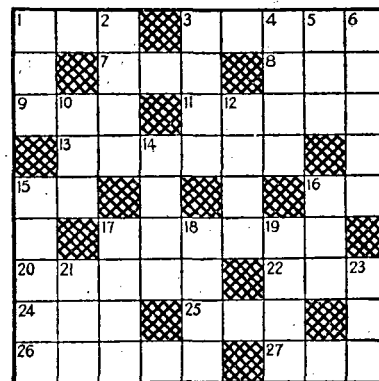
### Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 A heavy woolen wrap. 3 Folded-back part of a coat. 7 Past. 8 Honour for an artist (abbrev). 9 A tropical edible tuber. 11 A sweetener. 13 The middle point. 15 A preposition. 16 An interjection expressing many moods. 17 Drives forward. 20 A mounted man. 22 To employ. 24 Native mineral from which metal may be obtained. 25 Used for making holes in leather. 26 Tired. 27 The sheltered side.

Reading Down. 1 A beam of light. 2 Organised play. 3 Deprived of. 4 One side of a leaf. 5 A period of time. 6 Coniferous tree with bright foliage. 10 A deed. 12 To drive forcibly. 14 To nominate. 15 Shot from the bow. 16 Donkey. 17 A notion. 18 To make supplication. 19 Quiet. 21 Wrath. 23 A sheep.

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, August 14, 1948



### Hard Life

SAMMY SIMPLE says that he cannot understand why a fellow should work himself to death to make a living.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Where Do They Live?

Barnstable. Cheltenham.  
Leamington. Rochdale.

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